

Printer and Publisher



As an Apprentice, Franklin began his lifelong career in printing and publishing at the age of 12.



As a Printer, Franklin bought a press with Hugh Meredith in 1729. He became sole owner the next year.

Poor Richard, 1733.
A N
Almanack
For the Year of Christ
1733,
Being the First after LEAP YEAR.
...for the Creation
By the Account of the Eastern Greeks 1741
By the Latin Church, when Christ Y 1647
By the Computation of W. H. 1741
By the Roman Chronology 1682
By the Jews & Muslims 1694
Whom is contained
The Lunations, Eclipses, Tides, of the Weather, Spring Tides, Plagues, Storms & unusual Aspects, Sun and Moon's Rising and Setting, Length of Days, Time of High Waters, Tides, Comets, and other Astronomical Events.
Fitted to the Latitude of Forty Degrees, and a Meridian of Five Hours Well from London, but may without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent Places, even from Newfoundland to South Carolina.
By **RICHARD SAUNDERS, Philom.**
PHILADELPHIA:
Printed and sold by **B. FRANKLIN**, at the New Printing Office near the Market.
Bettmann Archive

As an Author, Franklin signed the pen name Richard Saunders to his famous *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

He also established the messenger service between Montreal and New York.

Franklin was public-spirited, and worked constantly to make Philadelphia a better city. He established the world's first subscription library. The members of this library contributed money to buy books, and then used them free of charge. The original collection still exists. Fire losses in Philadelphia were alarmingly high, and Franklin organized a fire department. He reformed the city police when he saw that criminals were getting away without punishment. The city streets were unpaved, dirty, and dark, so he started a program to pave, clean, and light them. The people of

Philadelphia shamefully neglected the sick and insane during Franklin's time. He raised money to help build a city hospital, the Pennsylvania Hospital, for these unfortunate. Scientists in the city were not organized, so Franklin set up the American Philosophical Society to bring them together. The city had no school for higher education, so Franklin also helped to found the academy that grew into the University of Pennsylvania. As a result of these and other projects, Philadelphia became the most advanced city in the 13 colonies.

The Scientist

Experiments with Electricity. Franklin was one of the first persons in the world to experiment with electricity. He conducted his most famous electrical experiment at Philadelphia in 1752. He flew a homemade kite during a thunderstorm, and proved that lightning is electricity. A bolt of lightning struck the kite wire and traveled down to a key fastened at the end, where it caused a spark. Then he tamed lightning by inventing the lightning rod (see **LIGHTNING ROD**). He urged his fellow citizens to use this device as a sure "means of securing the habitations and other buildings from mischief from thunder and lightning." When lightning struck Franklin's own home, the soundness of his invention became apparent. The lightning rod saved the building from damage. Franklin's lightning rod demonstrated his saying that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Authorities generally agree that Franklin created such electrical terms as *armature*, *condenser*, and *battery*.

Franklin's experiments with electricity involved some personal risk. He knocked himself unconscious at least once. He had been trying to kill a turkey with an electric shock, but something went wrong and Franklin, not the bird, was stunned. When he regained consciousness, he said: "I meant to kill a turkey, and instead, I nearly killed a goose."

Other Studies. Franklin's scientific interests ranged far beyond electricity. He became the first scientist to

